

MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WORKSHOP
August 26, 2004
Lansing, Michigan

Meeting noticed in accordance with Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.

Present: Ted Wahby, Chairman
 Betty Jean Awrey, Vice Chairwoman
 Robert Bender, Commissioner
 John Garside, Commissioner
 Linda Miller Atkinson, Commissioner
 Vincent J. Brennan, Commissioner

Also Present: Gloria J. Jeff, Director
 Frank E. Kelley, Commission Advisor
 Jerry Jones, Commission Auditor
 Polly Kent, Administrator, Intermodal Policy Division
 John Polasek, Bureau Director, Highway Development
 Susan Mortel, Bureau Director, Transportation Planning

A list of those people who attended the meeting is attached to the official minutes.

Chairman Wahby called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. in the Bureau of Aeronautics Commission Conference Room in Lansing, Michigan.

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Director Jeff regarding Border Policy. In brief:

MDOT's Vision

MDOT sees as its vision the establishment and maintenance of a transportation border infrastructure network that allows for the seamless movement of people, goods, and services in a cost-efficient, timely, safe and secure manner.

MDOT's Strategic Goals

To protect our transportation border infrastructure, increase federal funding for borders, provide adequate capacity for the next 30 years, expand and improve collaboration, coordination and communication with stakeholders, support federal laws, regulations and policies that improve the flow of trade across the U.S.-Canada border while maintaining national security.

Economic Importance

Michigan provides the principal U.S. gateway for international trade between Canada and twenty-seven other states, i.e., 27% of total North American land-based international trade, representing about \$150 billion through Michigan's three ports of entry—Detroit, Port Huron, and Sault Ste. Marie. The Ambassador and Blue Water Bridges rank as the top two commercial crossings on the U.S.-Canada border representing more than 4.7 million annual truck crossings per year, and 19.4 million annual passenger crossings.

MDOT's role in border security is to address physical security enhancements while continuing to facilitate mobility, and to coordinate with other stakeholders that are responsible for border security.

Critical transportation elements include capacity/congestion, infrastructure security, and multimodal connectivity. Other elements include developing travel demand and traffic management strategies, developing ITS solutions for borders, promoting FAST (Free and Secure Trade), NEXUS, improving border infrastructure planning coordination, and funding.

Issues to be considered in developing this policy include the Transportation Commission's role, MDOT's responsibilities, the national significance of crossings, economic importance, funding and comments from the public.

Therefore, recognizing Michigan's vision and common goals with Ontario to establish and maintain a transportation border that facilitates and encourages the seamless, safe and secure transport of goods, people and services in a cost efficient and timely manner, the MDOT shall:

1. Work to assure adequate transportation capacity at Michigan's borders to facilitate, advance and in part provide for the seamless movement of people and goods between Michigan and Ontario;
2. Provide for the protection of and upgrade the transportation facilities on our borders through collaborative initiatives with other governmental agencies to provide continued access for international trade and commerce between the U.S. and Canada;
3. Study needs for improving and expanding the transportation structures and infrastructures and identify advancing technologies through persistent research and analysis in order to continue to adapt to the demand of international trade and commerce;
4. Work to enhance cooperation, coordination, and communication with U.S. and Canadian border inspection and transportation agencies, local and regional governments, private operators, crossing users, neighborhoods, and other stakeholders affected by border crossings, in order to facilitate continued improvement to both the mobility and safety of border crossings;
5. Collaborate closely with state, local, provincial and private sector partners to proactively address topics of mutual interest that impact border crossings;
6. Work to increase federal funding for border transportation infrastructure capacity and safety improvements, and to use funding effectively to achieve the intent of this policy;
7. Work cooperatively with the other agencies responsible for improvements to border inspection processes, and encourage them to facilitate the movement of low-risk passengers and cargo, provide adequate inspection staffing levels, and implement the utilization of technological advancements that can reduce border transit times while enhancing security.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Frank E. Kelley
Commission Advisor